

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 COME-00 STR-08 TRSE-00 AGR-20 RSC-01 ISO-00

AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14 CEA-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 FRB-03 H-03 INR-11 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 TAR-02 USIA-15

PRS-01 SP-03 OMB-01 SWF-02 /230 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OT/TA:WTADAMS:SM

APPROVED BY EB: ASSISTANT SECRETARY DESIGNATE ENDERS

EB:TENDERS

EB/ITP:MGLITMAN

EB/ITP/TA:GSTREEB

STR:JGREENWALD

STR:JCCDONALDSON

COMM:CSSIEGEL

TREAS:WBARREDA

USDA:RHARPER

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R 192021Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

UNCLAS STATE 157008

E.O. 11652/NA

TAGS: ETRD, GATT

SUBJECT: PROGRESS IN CONGRESS ON THE TRADE BILL

REF: STATE 121000

1. DIPLOMATIC POSTS MAY DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING IN ANSWERING
OFFICIAL ENQUIRIES ABOUT CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESS IN CON-
SIDERATION OF THE TRADE BILL.

A. THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE CONSIDERED THE TRADE

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BILL IN ONLY TWO EXECUTIVE MARK-UP SESSIONS IN JUNE.

TAX REFORM MEASURES, HEALTH INSURANCE LEGISLATION, AND OTHER MEASURES ON THE SENATE FLOOR SUCH AS THE DEBT CEILING LIMIT HAVE BEEN POLITICALLY PRESSING AND HAVE TAKEN MOST OF THE COMMITTEE'S TIME.

B. SENATOR LONG, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, HAS SAID PRIVATELY--BUT NOT REPEAT NOT ANNOUNCED--THAT HE PLANS TO DEVOTE THE WEEK OF JULY 29 TO A REVIEW OF THE BILL. WE HOPE TO RUN COMPLETELY THROUGH THE BILL IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY AREAS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN FOR THE COMMITTEE AS WELL AS OTHER MEMBERS OF SENATE. LONG LEAVES AUGUST 2 TO RETURN TO LOUISIANA TO PREPARE FOR HIS PRIMARY ELECTION ON AUGUST 17. LONG'S PLAN IS TO CONTINUE THE MARK-UP SESSIONS IN SEPTEMBER AFTER LABOR DAY (IF NONE CAN BE HELD THE WEEK OF AUGUST 19-26) LEAVING THE ADMINISTRATION

FOUR TO SIX WEEKS TO WORK ON SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN THE JULY REVIEW. THE ADMINISTRATION HOPES THAT THE COMMITTEE WILL BE ABLE TO DEVOTE ITS FULL ATTENTION TO THE MARK-UP BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER.

C. ON JULY 16 TWENTY SENATORS SPOKE ON THE FLOOR OF THE SENATE IN FAVOR OF THE TRADE BILL AND ON THE NEED FOR MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AT THIS TIME. THE ADMINISTRATION IS ENCOURAGED BY THIS DEVELOPMENT AS AN INDICATION OF SUPPORT BY A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF SENATORS OF BOTH PARTIES.

D. ON JULY 18, THE SECRETARY MET AGAIN WITH SENATOR JACKSON ALONG WITH SENATORS RIBICOFF AND JAVITS CONCERNING THE JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT TO THE TRA. DEPARTMENT SPOKESMEN REPORTED THAT THE SECRETARY CONSIDERS THAT, QUOTE, DEFINITE PROGRESS WAS MADE ON THE TRADE BILL ISSUE, UNQUOTE. IN A SEPARATE PRESS BRIEFING, SENATOR JACKSON IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID, QUOTE, I THINK IT IS FAIR TO SAY WE MADE SOME PROGRESS, UNQUOTE. SENATOR JACKSON INDICATED THAT HE IS NOT ONLY CONCERNED WITH THE NUMBERS OF EMIGRATION PERMITS BUT WITH THE HARASSMENT OF THOSE SEEKING THE PERMITS. THE SECRETARY PLANS TO CONTINUE PRIORITY EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM.
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E. A SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL (AMBASSADOR MALMGREN) HAS PUBLICLY PREDICTED THAT LEGISLATIVE WORK ON THE BILL WILL BE SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETED BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE LAW, INSTRUCTIONS, US CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS, UPPER HOUSE, COMMITTEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE157008
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WTADAMS:SM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740196-0588
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740733/aaaabbzr.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 121000
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 OCT 2002 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <22 JAN 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROGRESS IN CONGRESS ON THE TRADE BILL
TAGS: ETRD, US, GATT
To: ALL POSTS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005